

"Understanding SAMHSA's Grant Application Process" Webcast

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At SAMHSA, our vision is "a life in the community for everyone." This includes people with or at risk for addiction or mental disorders. By building resilience and facilitating recovery, we believe that *everyone* can have the opportunity for a fulfilling life—with a job, a home, and meaningful relationships with family and friends.

But the Federal Government can't do this alone. Only through collaboration with the States, community- and faith-based organizations, and public and private sector providers can our vision become reality. That's why SAMHSA is pleased to provide funding in the form of grants to States, tribes, and community- and faith-based organizations across the country.

This year, many new funding opportunities will be available—and we hope you will apply. This short Webcast will help you understand SAMHSA's grant application process. Keep in mind, though, that it is just a starting point. You also should thoroughly review the other funding materials discussed in this presentation and available on SAMHSA's Web site.

Thank you for your interest in SAMHSA's funding opportunities. I wish you success with your grant applications and in the work you do to make a positive difference in the lives of people in your community.

Narrator (V.O.):

Applying for a grant should be a clear and efficient process. That's why SAMHSA has developed this brief tutorial to explain its Discretionary Grant Announcements. *Anyone* intending to apply for a SAMHSA grant should clearly understand these application procedures.

To apply for a SAMHSA grant, you will need information from two different types of documents—the Standard Grant Announcements and specific Notices of Funding Availability, or NOFAs. Do not apply for a grant without both of these documents.

Let's look at them more closely.

SAMHSA has implemented four Standard Grant Announcements. Think of these as the basic instructions for four types of grants:

Services Grants—to address substance abuse and mental health service gaps and meet the needs of specific populations or geographic areas...

Infrastructure Grants—designed to increase the capacity of mental health or substance abuse service systems...

Best Practices Planning and Implementation Grants—to put in place programs that meet the substance abuse prevention, treatment, and mental health needs of a community...

And, Service-to-Science Grants—designed to document and evaluate innovative practices that have not yet been formally evaluated.

The most important thing to understand about the Standard Grant Announcements is this: They provide important information about preparing grant applications, but they *are not* notices of funding availability. Therefore, do *not* apply to SAMHSA for a grant based solely on the information in the Standard Grant Announcements.

Keep in mind, though, that these announcements outline predictable areas of funding. By becoming familiar with them, you can gain a better understanding of SAMHSA's ongoing operational priorities and have more time to plan, prepare, and develop your grant applications. For example, you can start preparing material to address the specific evaluation criteria in each of the Standard Grant Announcements.

When funding becomes available under one of the Standard Grant Announcement areas, SAMHSA will issue the second type of document—a Notice of Funding Availability. Only then will you be able to complete your grant application. Each NOFA provides essential details about the specific funding opportunity and what is required in the grant application. The NOFA will specify the expected size and number of grant awards, the application deadline, which Standard Grant Announcement to use when developing the application, and other information.

NOFAs are published in the Federal Register and are posted on SAMHSA's Web site at www.samhsa.gov. Follow the link for "Funding" on the Web site, and be sure to check back frequently for NOFA postings.

Finally, because some funding opportunities may not fit under one of the four standard funding areas, SAMHSA may periodically issue unique, stand-alone grant announcements. When this occurs, a Request for Application—an RFA—or a Program Announcement—a PA—will be issued in the Federal Register and on SAMHSA's Web site. *In these cases only*, the RFA or PA will contain all of the necessary grant information you need. You will not need a separate Standard Grant Announcement and NOFA. Remember, though, that this approach is the exception, not the rule, and applies only to periodic, stand-alone grant announcements.

Be sure to carefully read all of the information in the grant announcements you pursue to ensure that you follow the correct application procedures. SAMHSA's goal is to have every application qualify for review. Pay special attention to the Checklist for Formatting Requirements and Screenout Criteria with each funding announcement. These requirements benefit every grant applicant by standardizing the format for every submission. This creates a "level playing field" from which all applications can be evaluated fairly. It is *critical* that you follow this checklist exactly.

Remember, to apply for a grant—other than an RFA or PA—you'll need two types of documents—a Standard Grant Announcement and a Notice of Funding Availability.

Be sure to carefully review the funding documents and technical assistance materials available on SAMHSA's Web site for additional information. Go to www.samhsa.gov/grants. Follow the link for "Funding Opportunities" to see current RFAs, PAs, and NOFAs. Follow the "Useful Information for Applicants" link to see the Standard Grant Announcements and other resources, including technical assistance materials.

If you have additional questions about SAMHSA grants that have not been answered here, please check the resources on our Web site at www.samhsa.gov. Or, contact Cathy Friedman by calling (301) 443-4111, or e-mailing cfriedman@samhsa.gov.

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